

Q8

LIFE OF JESUS

## The Vineyard Workers

[PursueGODkids.org](http://PursueGODkids.org)

## Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning about a parable Jesus told to teach a lesson about how we're made right with God. One morning, a landowner went out and hired a group of guys to work in his vineyard. He promised them a full day's pay for their work. They happily accepted and worked out in the hot sun all day. The landowner went out and hired another group a few hours later and also promised them a full day's pay. The landowner did this a few more times-he hired more workers. But the last group only had to work one hour! At the end of the day, the landowner gave each group the same pay-a full day's pay, just like he promised. But, the workers who worked all day, or most of the day, got mad because they had worked way harder than the groups that joined later. That's not fair. They should get paid more for working longer. Here's the point of the story. Jesus was teaching the people that they can't work their way into heaven. The only way any of us make it to heaven is through trusting in Jesus. It doesn't matter if you've done a lot of awesome things, more than any of your friends. Jesus offers all of us the same gift of forgiveness and it's not based on our work, it's based on what Jesus did!

**Big Idea**

*God's kingdom isn't always fair and that's a good thing*

**Key Question**

*What is grace?*

**Memory Verse**

*Ephesians 2:8 "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."*

### Classroom Agenda

- (5 min) Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
- (5 min) WARM UP: Share a time someone else got something you thought you deserved. How did you feel about that?** (Tip: Sometimes life isn't fair but that's not always a bad thing! God gives us something great that we don't deserve.)
- (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
- (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
- (3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **A gift we can't earn on our own.** (This is really important to understand and the point of this parable. Jesus came and died for our sins so we could be forgiven. It's his gift to us! We didn't do anything to earn it. All we can do is accept the gift by asking Jesus to live in our hearts.)
  - Bonus Questions:** What is grace? How do we accept the gift? **4-5th** Why are gifts better than having to do something to get something?
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read Romans 3:23-24. Who has sinned? How did God make us right in his eyes?** (Answer: We are all sinners. We all make mistakes and have made God sad. But, God doesn't hold our mistakes over us. Jesus came to forgive our mistakes so we could be free to live for him! All we have to do is put our trust in him by inviting him to live in our hearts.)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to [pursueGODkids.org](http://pursueGODkids.org) to find this week's lesson video.

**Teacher instructions:** Choose an activity for your classroom.

## OPTION 1: GRAPE CRAFT

### Instructions:

- Give each kid a Grape template (page 5). Give each kid a half sheet of construction paper as well as green and purple tissue paper.
- Have the kids rip up the purple tissue paper into smaller pieces and have them glue them over the grapes. Have them do the same with the green tissue paper to cover the leaves. Then, have them glue the grapes to the middle of their construction paper. Have them glue the "The Parable of the Vineyard Workers" at the top of the paper and the Big Idea and Memory verse at the bottom.
- As they work, read the story of the Vineyard workers from Matthew 20:1-16. Remind the kids that some of the vineyard workers thought their pay was unfair because they worked harder and longer. But, God gives us things we don't even deserve. We didn't earn the gift of forgiveness but Jesus gave it to us anyways.

**Supplies needed:** Grape template (pg. 5, precut, 1 set per kid), 1/2 sheets of construction paper, Purple and Green tissue paper, Crayons, Glue

## OPTION 2: THAT'S NOT FAIR GAME!

### Instructions:

- Tape two lines at each end of the room. Tell the kids that you're going to do a series of head to head competitions but the rules will change for each round. Have two new kids for each round and keep track of their times. Tell the kids that the fastest time will win a prize. (The rules won't be fair and that's the point! See how the kids respond as they figure that out)
  - Round 1: Two kids just run to other line, touch it, and run back.
  - Round 2: Two kids run to other line, do one jumping jack and run back
  - Round 3: Two kids have to hop on one foot down to other line and then run back
  - Round 4: Two kids run to the other line and then have to run backwards back
  - Round 5: Two kids have to hop to the other line and then skip back.
- Ask the kids why the game wasn't fair and how that made them feel. Then, read the story of the Vineyard workers from Matthew 20:1-16. Remind the kids that some of the vineyard workers thought their pay was unfair because they worked harder and longer. But, God gives us things we don't even deserve. We didn't earn the gift of forgiveness but Jesus gave it to us anyways.

**Supplies needed:** Tape

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# The Vineyard Workers

Hey kids and parents! Fill in the blanks as you talk about this week's lesson together. Have fun!

## Key Points

- Some workers got there early and worked \_\_\_\_\_ long.
- Some workers got there \_\_\_\_\_ and worked just a few hours.
- When they got paid at the end of the day, they all got a \_\_\_\_\_ wage.
- God's kingdom isn't always \_\_\_\_\_, and that's a good thing!

### Big Idea

God's kingdom isn't always fair and that's a good thing

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### Key Question

What is grace?

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### Memory Verse

Ephesians 2:8 "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."

## Talk About It

1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
2. What's a big mistake you've made at home? How about at school? What lessons did you learn from those mistakes?
3. What were the disciples doing when Jesus appeared to them?
4. Why did Peter need a second chance?
5. Read Micah 7:18-19 List all the things this passage says about God. What does he do with our sins?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

**Instructions:** Solve the puzzle and color the picture.

## Grape Maze

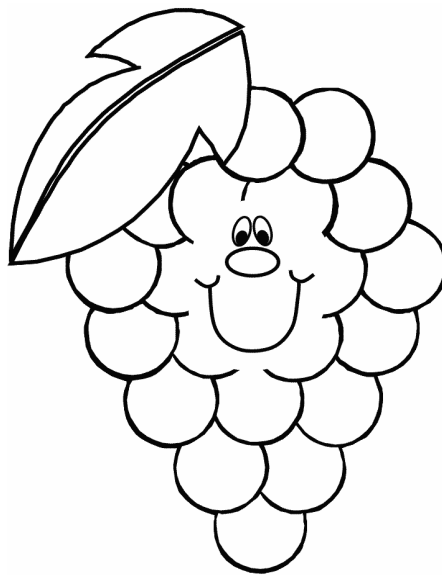


### Big Idea

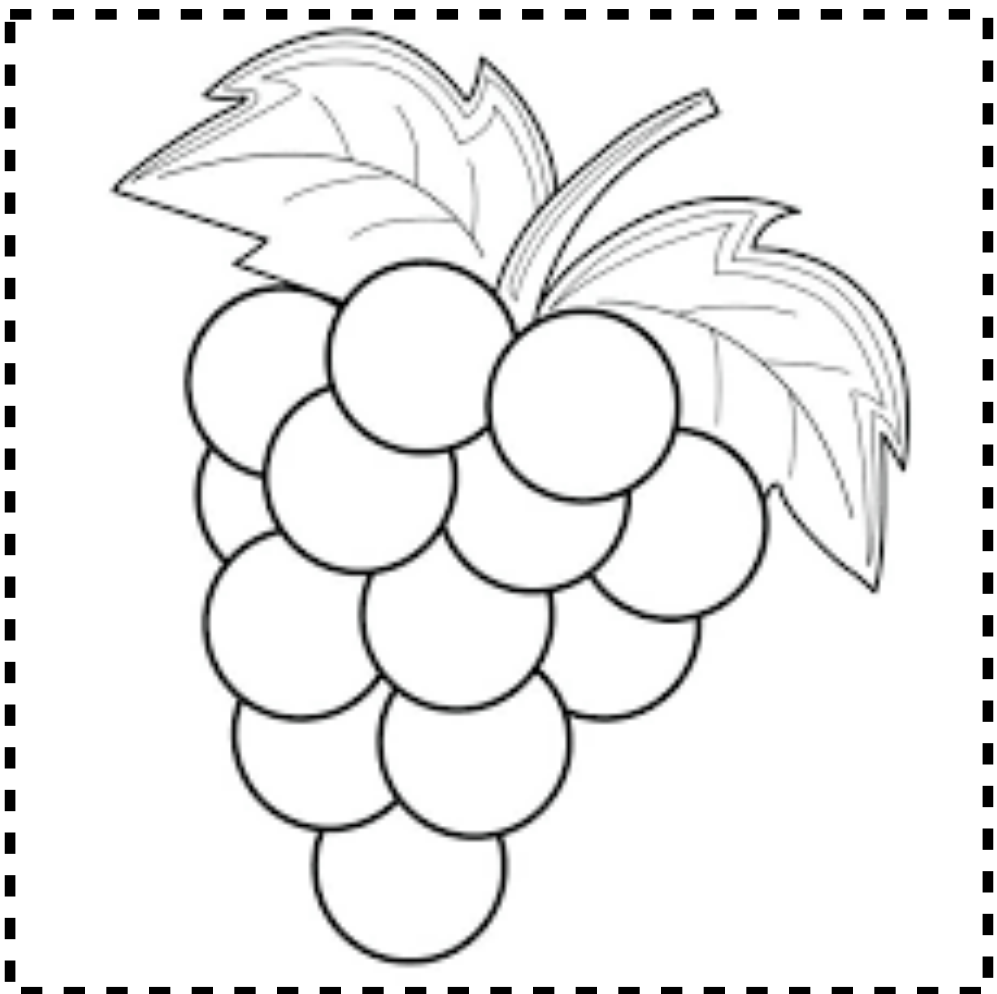
### Key Question

### Memory Verse

*Ephesians 2: \_\_\_\_\_ "God \_\_\_\_\_  
you by his \_\_\_\_\_ when you  
believed. And you \_\_\_\_\_ take  
credit for this; it is a gift from  
God."*



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THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD  
WORKERS

*Ephesians 2:8 "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."*

GOD'S KINGDOM  
ISN'T ALWAYS FAIR  
AND THAT'S A  
GOOD THING!